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Urban District of Rothwell.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND THE


SANITARY INSPECTOR

(T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

764 W

1943

*August
September } 1959*



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Rothwell Urban District Council.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA FOR 1943.

Area in Acres	..	...	..	..	...	...	10,695
Resident Population (Mid-Year 1943)	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,960
Number of Inhabited Houses in District at end of 1943	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,872
Rateable Value to General Rate on 1st April, 1943	..	..	..	..	..	..	£103,295
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	...	...	...	...	...	£392

BIRTHS (LIVE).

Legitimate—190 Males, 170 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	..	379
Illegitimate— 9 Males, 10 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	..

STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate —2 Males, 5 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Illegitimate—None	..	..	..	..	..	..

DEATHS	..	139 Males, 126 Females	..	..	..	..	265
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Mid-year 1943)	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.50
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..	..	..	..	18.13
Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.10

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.						Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	42.21
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	38.88
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	105.26

RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1943.

Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	Over 65 years.	Total.
16	6	3	3	32	58	147	265

No unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. . .	Medical Officer of Health. Medical Superintendent of the Roth- well Isolation Hospital. Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Services.
T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector, Certified Smoke Inspector.	Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.
R. A. NAYLOR, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Assoc. Inst. Hygiene	Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Miss M. CAMERON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Superintendent Health Visitor.
Miss E. ABRAM, Certified Midwife..	Health Visitor.
Miss K. HALSTEAD, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Health Visitor.
Miss D. DAWSON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.S.R.I.	Health Visitor. (February to December, 1943).
Miss M. WHITTINGHAM	Clerk.
Mrs. I. M. GIBSON	Clerk (M. & C.W. Dept.)
Miss D. SALMON	Junior Typist
Miss E. DICKINSON	Junior Clerk (M. & C.W. Dept).

Rothwell Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1943.

Once again, War Time conditions necessitate that the Report should be as brief and as factual as possible and all I can hope to do is to touch upon the main salient factors which have cropped up during the current year.

With regard to the incidence of Infectious Disease, once again this has been very slight. Scarlet Fever continues to be mild in type. A particularly gratifying feature is the continued low incidence of Positive Diphtheria.

Scabies continues to be endemic in the district, but the number of cases coming to notice is not sufficiently high to cause any concern.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining Institutional accommodation for maternity cases where no obstetrical abnormality was to be expected. This has been met to a very large extent by the continued use of the Walton Hall Emergency Maternity Home, although War Time conditions have been responsible for a demand which, with all our efforts, we have not absolutely been able to satisfy.

During the year, increased attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinics led to additional Clinics being instituted.

Diphtheria Immunisation was systematically conducted throughout the year and every effort has been made to maintain the high percentage of immunised children which was such a source of gratification during the previous year.

The two existing War Time Nurseries at Rothwell and Stourton are functioning well and are caring for a considerable number of children whose mothers are engaged on work of National importance.

Housing.—Perhaps the least satisfactory feature of this area, as of all others, is the extreme scarcity of housing accommodation, together with the undoubted inadequacy of many of the houses already existing and the, at present, utter impossibility of providing anything in the shape of new construction. Beyond recording the foregoing facts, all that one can do is to express the hope that a speedy termination to the War will enable an early start to be made on this problem and that the task will be tackled with adequate vigour and broadness of vision.

The Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector will indicate the work which has been carried out with regard to Cleansing, Salvage and Disinfestation.

It is gratifying to have to record an appreciable increase in the Birth Rate, which now stands at 16.50, as against the 1942 figure of 14.34. If this trend is maintained, it is reasonable to hope that the dangerous increase in the average age of the population may soon be corrected. The death rate is slightly raised at 11.10, though a glance at the Table on page 1 will indicate that the increase is preponderantly due to deaths in the over 65 age group.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

It is satisfactory to note that there is an over all increase in the attendances at the Child Welfare Clinics and this in spite of the fact that 70 or 80 of our 6 months to five-year-old children are in attendance at the War Time Nurseries, and that the Nursery classes in the Elementary Schools are admitting increasing numbers of under-fives.

The nutrition of the children is such as to give rise for very little criticism and in the overwhelming majority of cases the children are of excellent nutritional standard. This inevitably is reflected in the high standard of health maintained, and the small percentage of defects found during routine medical examinations at the Clinics.

The Infantile Death Rate remains low, and it is permissible to attribute this in no small measure to the increased emphasis which is being placed on Ante-Natal care. A further point which is worthy of comment is that, as will be seen, the number of home visits is up by 2,000 during the year, and this in spite of the increasing difficulties due to long journeys, inadequate transport facilities, and numerical deficiencies in staff. The importance of health visiting cannot be over-emphasised and in particular one would stress the supreme importance of the personality of the Visitor who, as it were, has the task of putting over to the mother the value of many individual procedures so all-important in ensuring that her child has an optimum start in life.

As I have said earlier, serious defects were very small in number ; more particularly, orthopaedic defects were almost non-existent, this being a very significant testimony to the value of the Government scheme of vitamin distribution. The vitamin habit had already been well inculcated in this area in pre-war days. The undoubted advantages which have been derived from Ultra-Violet Irradiation in the Sunray Clinics have also, in my opinion, contributed very largely to the bone development and general well-being of many children who otherwise might have developed skeletal defects. Incidentally, the new Sunray apparatus which was installed towards the end of the year, is proving extremely effective and has been instrumental, through its greatly increased efficiency, in effecting a considerable saving in the time of the Staff, no small matter in these days of acute staffing shortages.

War Time Nurseries.—The War Time Nurseries continue to serve a useful function and the one at Stourton has been for some time full almost to capacity, whilst the numbers in attendance at the Rothwell Nursery are showing progressive and satisfactory increase. It is indisputable that the children in regular attendance at these Nurseries show marked improvement, in almost every case, of both physique and mental development, a fact which is frequently remarked on by many of the parents.

TABLE 1.
CLINIC ATTENDANCES IN AGE GROUPS SHOWING
AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AT FIVE CLINICS.

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total	Average Weekly Attendance
Rothwell ..	2,046	527	818	3,391	70·64
Lofthouse ..	991	569	626	2,186	45·54
Stourton ..	1,067	230	127	1,424	29·66
Oulton ..	834	376	327	1,537	32·02
Methley ..	1,705	311	480	2,496	48·00
Total ..	6,643	2,013	2,378	11,034	225·86

TABLE 1a.
INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING
1943.

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total
Rothwell	118	90	154	362
Lofthouse	40	61	114	215
Stourton	41	46	44	131
Oulton	45	39	74	158
Methley	71	52	64	197
Total ..	315	288	450	1,053

TABLE 1b.
NEW CLINIC ENTRANTS DURING 1943.

Clinic.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
Rothwell	115	2	4	121
Lofthouse	51	5	3	59
Stourton	42	2	1	45
Oulton	40	0	2	42
Methley	73	0	2	75
Total	321	9	12	342

TABLE 1c.
**No. OF CHILDREN (BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS) IN AREA 31st
DECEMBER, 1943, WITH PROPORTION OF CLINIC ATTENDERS.**

Age.	No. of Children in Rothwell Area.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance.	Percentage of Children in Clinic Attendance.
Under 1 year	398	315	79·14
1-2 years	349	288	82·52
2-5 years	828	450	54·34

TABLE 2.
RECORD OF SUNRAY WORK DURING 1943.

No. of Sessions	No. of Treat- ments given	No. of individual Children treated.				No. of Mothers treated	Total	Average Attendance per Session
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	School Chil- dren			
96	2,089*	7	48	76	26	4	162	21·7

*Including 307 treatments given to the 26 School children (3·19 per session) in accordance with arrangement with the West Riding County Council.

TABLE 3.
RECORD OF HOME VISITATION.

First Visits (under one year)	408
Re-visits (under one year)	3,255
One to two years	2,910
Two to five years	10,293
Ante-Natal first visits	133
Ante-Natal Re-visits	417
TOTAL HOME VISITS	17,416

TOTAL CLINIC SESSIONS HELD DURING 1943 :—

Infant Welfare	244
Ultra Violet Ray	96
Ante-Natal	104
Dental Sessions	—
Consultative Ante-Natal Sessions	5
	449

TABLE 4.
PARTICULARS OF INFANT FEEDING DURING 1943.

Number of Infants Breast Fed for 6 months or longer	100†
Number of Infants found to be artificially fed at first visit (two weeks old)	81
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at second visit (6 weeks old)	100
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at third visit (12 weeks old)	34
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at fourth visit (16 weeks old)	13
Further number of Infants found to be artificially fed at fifth visit (20 weeks old)	11

†The above figure of 100 is equivalent to 25·4 per cent. of the Notified Births as compared with a corresponding figure of 42·7 in 1942.

Methods of Feeding (Artificial).	Reasons for Discontinuation of Breast Feeding.
Cows' milk 39	Mothers working 12
Dried Milk 186	Maternal Debility 70
Other Proprietary Foods 14	Mastitis 14
	Illness of Infant 3
	Inability of Infant to suck 5
	Death of Mother 2
	Advised by Medical Attendant 80
	No apparent reason 53
239	239

Breast Feeding.—A disturbing feature is the continued decline in the percentage of mothers who successfully breast feed their children, and it is true to say that the reasons given must, in many cases, be considered inadequate. Possibly the strain and anxiety of War Time conditions and the undoubted fact that many mothers are anxious to return to work at the earliest possible moment, contribute largely to this unfortunate trend. Breast feeding is one of the most important factors in promoting child health and ensuring a sure foundation for its future well-being, and one must express the hope that a return to more normal conditions will see a reversal of the present lamentable decline.

RESCUE SERVICES.

Hospital treatment for all emergency maternity cases.

Hospital treatment for cases in which housing conditions are undesirable.

Hospital provision (free) for all cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Ambulance free in all above cases.

Consultation at home with Specialist in cases of abnormalities, arising ante-natal, post-natal, or during labour.

Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic with Specialist in attendance.

Child Welfare, ante-natal and post-natal Services (under our own control) with Medical and Health Visiting Staff.

Immunisation (Diphtheria) Clinic.

Provision (free) for X-ray examination of maternity cases of dubious diagnosis.

Home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases.

Hospital provision for cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Orthopaedic hospital provision for children under five.

Provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.

Provision of dental treatment for children under five.

Grants of free milk to nursing and expectant mothers.

Assisted Scheme.—Grants of dried milks and Cod Liver Oil at reduced terms in accordance with income.

Provision of Sunray treatment for debilitated children under five and for expectant Mothers.

Home Helps.

Convalescent Home Provision for Debilitated Mothers and their Infants and for Children under Five.—These services were not available during 1943, as the Homes have been closed owing to the War.

Health Visitors.—A further change was made in the Health Visiting Staff during 1943, one Health Visitor being appointed to fill a vacancy created during 1942.

Child Life Protection.—At the end of 1943 there were three foster-mothers who were nursing children for reward in this area.

Dental Treatment for Children under Five and for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.—Under arrangement with the West Riding County Council Dental Service, the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority of this district provides dental treatment for children under five years, and likewise for expectant and nursing mothers when such treatment is deemed necessary.

Ophthalmic Service.—Provision is made for home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases and hospital treatment is available for all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Orthopaedic Provision.—Orthopaedic Hospital provision is available for children under five.

Contributory Payments towards Bus Fares.—In the case of women attending the Ante-Natal Clinics, contributory payments are made by the Authority towards the cost of bus fares.

Nursing Homes.—No Nursing Homes have been registered in this district and no action has been found necessary.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Stillbirths and Neo-Natal Deaths.

The Infant Mortality Rate at 42·21 must be considered reasonably satisfactory and a glance at the Table showing the causes of neo-natal deaths, shows that a considerable proportion of these deaths were due to causes over which no control was possible.

TABLE 5
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.		1-2 weeks.		2-3 weeks.		3-4 weeks.		1-3 mths.		3-6 mths.		6-9 mths.		9-12 mths.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Hydrocephalus																		
Spina Bifida ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiac Failure ..																		
Acute Bronchitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Broncho Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Premature Birth ..																		
Congenital Debility	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Spina Bifida ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Meningitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Acute Bronchitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Asphyxia Neonatorum ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atelectasis of Left																		
Lower Lobe ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hypertrophic																		
Stenosis of																		
Pylorus ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total ..	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	1	0	1	8	8

The following small tables deal with the comparison of still-births and neo-natal deaths, during the past four years :—

TABLE 6a.**DETAILS OF STILL-BIRTHS
FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Still-births.	Proportion of Still-births per 100 Live Births.
1940	344	7	2.0
1941	334	18	5.4
1942	349	11	3.15
1943	379	7	1.84

TABLE 6b.**DETAILS OF NEO-NATAL
DEATHS FOR THE PAST
FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Neo-Natal Deaths.	Proportion of Neo-Natal Deaths per 100 Live Births.
1940	344	15	4.3
1941	334	9	2.1
1942	349	13	3.7
1943	379	16	4.22

Your attention is directed to a table referring in detail to mortality in children under five years of age, the particulars being classified in age groups.

TABLE 7.**DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS. IN AGE GROUPS**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 yr.		1-2 years.		2-3 years.		3-4 years.		4-5 years.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Hydrocephalus												
Spina Bifida	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiac Failure. ..												
Acute Bronchitis ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2
Premature Birth, etc. ..	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Congenital Debility. } Spina Bifida	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Meningitis	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0
Acute Bronchitis ..	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Asphyxia Neonatorum ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atelectasis of left Lower Lobe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hypertrophic Stenosis of Pylorus	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cerebellar Tumour ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Cerebral Abscess												
Suppurative Otitis media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL ..	8	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	13	9

Table 8 gives some idea of the scope and extent of the work undertaken in the Child Welfare Clinics, and Table 9 demonstrates

effectively the small percentage of children examined found to be suffering from defects of any appreciable significance.

TABLE 8.
MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF CHILDREN DURING 1943.

Birth to 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
1,258	458	468	2,184

TABLE 9.
**PARTICULARS OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN IN CLINIC
ATTENDANCE DURING 1943.**

Age.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance	No. of Children found to be Defective.	Percentage of Children in Clinic attendance found to be defective.
Under one year ..	315	11	3.4
One to two years..	288	8	2.4
Two to five years	450	15	4.3
Total—Birth to five years	1,053	34	3.2

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND MATERNAL WELFARE.

As predicted in my last Report, it has been found necessary to increase the number of Ante-Natal Clinics held, this being due largely to more regular attendance on the part of the mothers and also to the fact that, as a glance at Table 10a will verify, expectant mothers are now attending the Clinic at a much earlier period of pregnancy, a very satisfactory state of affairs as many minor abnormalities can be recognised and corrected, which otherwise might progress to more serious proportions. Failures in attendance have been remarkably low, and the co-operation of the mothers in the vast majority of cases has been all that could be desired.

I have already remarked on the demand for Institutional accommodation and I am afraid that under present conditions no further provisions will be found possible. This matter should, in my opinion, rank high in the list of post-war priorities.

TABLE 10.
DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS
DURING 1943.

Clinic.	Total No. of Expectant Mothers Attending.		Primiparae	Multiparae.	No. of Sessions held.	Average attendance per session.	Gross total of Attendances.	Percentage of notified births in Clinic attendance.
	New Cases	Old Cases						
Rothwell	267†	67	99	166	85	18.4	1,564	97.9*
Methley	41	10	17	24	19	7.3	137	
TOTALS	308	77	116	210	104		1,701	

* Inclusive of 77 cases carried over from 1942.

† Inclusive of 2 cases not pregnant

NOTE.—During 1943, the actual number of new cases in Ante-Natal Clinic attendance was 308—equivalent to 78.3 per cent. of the notified births.

TABLE 10a.
PERIOD OF PREGNANCY AT WHICH FIRST ATTENDANCE
(1943) TOOK PLACE.

1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month	9th month	Not Pregnant	Total.
3	31	56	77	67	35	26	9	2	2	308

TABLE 11.
DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL DETECTED DURING ANTE-NATAL
CLINIC EXAMINATIONS.

Heart Disease (various forms)	10	Disproportion	5
Hypertension	9	Mastitis	1
Breech Presentation (Internal version at L.M.H) ..	4	Bronchitis	2
Breech Presentation (External version)	5	Disseminated Sclerosis ..	1
Pyelitis	3	Oedema of Right Leg ..	1
Varicose Veins	4	Thyro-adenoma	1
Vaginal Discharge	1	Cholecystitis	1
Bartholin Abscess	1	Salpyngitis	1
T.B. Crepitations, Tachycardia	1	Myalgia	1
Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage..	1		
Scabies	2		
		Total	55

Equivalent to 12.9 per cent. of 385 Expectant Mothers attending.

TABLE 11a.

CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF THE CASES IN ANTE-NATAL CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1943.

Normal Deliveries 197	Premature Birth with death of Infant 2
Normal Delivery, Retained Placenta 1	Premature Stillbirth—Ante-Partum and Post-Partum Hæmorrhage 1
Stillbirths 3	Premature Delivery and Albuminuria 1
Miscarriages 3	Prolapse of Cord—Admitted to L.M.H.—Stillbirth .. 1
Abortion 1	Persistent Breech 2
Auricular Fibrillation—Stillbirth 1	Admitted to Hospital .. 44
Instrumental Delivery—No tear 1	(see separate table) ..
Instrumental Delivery—Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage .. 1	Not Pregnant 2
Premature Birth 1	Left Area 1
	Due for Delivery in 1944 .. 123

TABLE 12.

PARTICULARS OF CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL—1943.

Disproportion (Multip.) .. 2	Pre-Eclampsia 1
Disproportion (Primipara) .. 9	Threatened abortion (Normal delivery later) 1
Disproportion—(High Forceps delivery) 1	Failed Forceps 1
Hypertension 9	Pyelitis and Hypertension .. 1
Persistent Breech plus Hypertension (Primipara) .. 1	Thrombo-phlebitis 1
Persistent Breech (Primipara) 2	Tachycardia 2
Persistent Breech(Multip.) .. 1	Mal-presentation 1
Hyperemesis 1	Abortion (St. James's) .. 1
Mitral Stenosis 5	Normal Delivery (Staincliffe) 1
Mitral Stenosis, for Cæsarean Section and Sterilisation .. 1	Double Mitral and Aortic regurgitation 1
Small Android Pelvis, for Cæsarean Section 1	Delay in Second stage—Occipito posterior, High forceps .. 1
Small Pelvis, for Cæsarean Section and Sterilisation .. 1	Total 46

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Two cases were recorded ; Both made good recoveries.

Maternal Mortality Rate.—During 1943, no maternal death occurred in this area. The District Mortality Rate for the year was, therefore, 0·0 per 1,000 births, the average Maternal Mortality Rate in this district for the five years' period 1939 to 1943 inclusive being 1·58.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the accommodation for children, mothers and Staff in the Branch Clinics must be

considered far from satisfactory. These premises are, of course, in no way designed for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes and are, at the best, of a very makeshift type. If the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, which has been so painstakingly built up in this area, and which has, by constant endeavour, reached a very high pitch of efficiency, is to be maintained and further improved, it is clear that Clinic premises of a more suitable type must be provided, premises which will conform to the dignity of the Service whose functions they subserve, and which will provide adequate and specialised accommodation for all concerned.

In conclusion of this section, I should like once more to pay a tribute to the unflagging efforts of Miss Cameron, the Superintendent Health Visitor, who has continued to put heart and soul into maintaining the high standard of the Service which she herself has done so much to build up.

Acknowledgment is also due to the Health Visitors for their loyal co-operation, and to the clerical staff whose work tends to widen in scope from year to year.

Voluntary Helpers.—Once again I should like to acknowledge the great help given by the Voluntary Helpers, whose quiet and unostentatious assistance does so much to oil the wheels of Clinic routine.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Laboratory Facilities.—Once again I have to acknowledge the very great assistance given me by Dr. Potts and the staff of the County Laboratory in carrying out bacteriological and pathological examinations of a very wide range. On all occasions, assistance has been freely given and has always gone far beyond mere minimal requirements. This help is of inestimable value in the investigation of many obscure conditions and I should like, once more, on behalf of the Rothwell Urban District Council, to express my sincere thanks.

Ambulance Facilities.—(a) For Infectious Disease. (b) Non-Infectious Disease and Accidents. An approved scale of charges is in operation for the latter.

With the co-operation of the County Council's Civil Defence Controller, it has again been possible to make occasional use of the Civil Defence Ambulances for urgent maternity work. It is becoming increasingly evident that the ambulance needs of the district require that more than one ambulance should be available, and this matter will have to be considered as soon as circumstances make it practicable.

Nursing Provision.—This is provided by Voluntary Nursing Associations, and three Nurses are available for the nursing of diseases of types not eligible for treatment in the Isolation Hospital.

Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics used Solely for Diagnosis or Consultation.—

- (a) Five Welfare Clinics ; one, the Central Clinic, at Rothwell and one each at Stourton, Lofthouse, Methley and Oulton.
- (b) Ante-Natal Clinic held twice weekly at the Central Clinic and fortnightly at the Methley Clinic.
- (c) Post-Natal Clinic held weekly at the Central Clinic.
- (d) Staff of four Health Visitors, one being the Supervisory Head.
- (e) Panel of Home Helps.
- (f) Scabies Clinic. Treatment has been given throughout the year at the Rothwell First Aid Post. The incidence of Scabies in the area has fallen during the year to a level sufficiently low to make only occasional demands on the time of the First Aid Post Staff, and it is to be hoped that this satisfactory state of affairs will continue.

Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.—The Council maintains its own Hospital for the Isolation and treatment of Infectious Disease.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the district has been obtained in the following amounts from the under-mentioned Local Authorities during the year :—

Leeds Corporation	227,122,000 gallons.
Morley Corporation	25,018,000 „
Wakefield Corporation	28,979,000 „
	<hr/>
	281,119,000 „
	<hr/>

Of this quantity, 139,125,000 gallons were used for Trade purposes and the balance of 141,994,000 gallons was allocated to domestic purposes and leakage respectively.

The average daily consumption per head for domestic purposes was 16·94 gallons and, for trade purposes 16·60 gallons.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No changes have been made in the drainage and sewerage systems during the year, but considerable alterations will be needed at the earliest possible date after the War.

Rivers and Streams.—No action necessary during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—Details of conversions and improvements will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Public Cleansing.—I would refer you to the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shops and Offices.—No statutory action has been found necessary, but routine inspection is carried out.

Camping Sites.—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Smoke Abatement.—All action has been suspended for the duration of the War.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—No Public Baths in this Area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority. The property and effects of Slum Clearance tenants are disinfested before transfer to new houses, whilst educational and co-operative measures are taken by the Health and Housing Departments to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

Schools.—No action necessary in connection with the sanitary condition and water supply of schools.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.—Normal routine work has been carried out during the year with regard to milk, inspection of farms and dairies, meat and other foods. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

HOUSING

The position with regard to housing continues to be unsatisfactory and the prospect of a reasonably early termination of hostilities leads to the hope that this most important part of public health work will shortly occupy once more its rightful place in the activities of the Health Department.

Six individual Unfit houses were represented during the year and Demolition Orders made. Four of the houses were vacated during the same year, three of the tenants being re-housed in Council Houses.

Sixteen houses which were vacated prior to 1943 were demolished during that year.

Details of housing inspection and repairs required to be done during 1943 will be found in the table in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The following table is self-explanatory.

TABLE 13.
HOUSING ACTIVITIES DURING 1943.

No. of Houses Inspected.			No. of Visits made.		
Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act (Minor defects)	Total	Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act.	Total
198	305	503	350	457	807

Informal Notices.		Statutory Notices.	
No. issued.	No. completed.	No. issued.	No. completed
161	158	27	27

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Once again, with the exception of Measles, the incidence of Infectious Disease has continued low. Measles has, in accordance with its normal biennial variation, flared up during the year, and there was some increase in Whooping Cough notifications at the same time. The control of measles is a problem which has not yet been solved. With regard to Whooping Cough recent experiments in prophylaxis have not been sufficiently encouraging to lead one to anticipate that early control of this infant scourge can be anticipated.

Diphtheria.—Once again a total of 11 positive cases gives encouraging evidence of the protected state of the bulk of the Child population.

TABLE 14.
CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS
(EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total.
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Scarlet Fever ..	0	1	4	5	10	45	24	5	6	2	0	0	102
†Diphtheria ..	0	1	0	0	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	11
Typhoid Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Pneumonia ..	2	0	2	2	0	6	1	4	11	7	7	3	45
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum ..	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Erysipelas ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	2	15
Cerebro-Spinal													
Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ..	16	37	57	94	72	223	4	3	5	0	0	0	511
Whooping Cough ..	13	18	19	14	15	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	126
TOTALS ..	33	57	82	115	99	323	31	15	24	13	17	5	814

† 10 cases of suspected Diphtheria also notified, but proved "Negative."

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Every effort has been made to ensure that all children are immunised on attaining the age of one year and Table 15 shows that considerable success has been achieved. If parents can be convinced that the best present they can give their baby on its first birthday is protection from Diphtheria, control of this deadly disease will be within our grasp.

TABLE 15.
IMMUNISATION RECORDS, 1943.

	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	Total.
Immunised in Clinics ..	249	24	273
Immunised in Schools under W.R.C.C. Scheme	7	311	318
Percentage of Child population immunised as at 31st December, 1943 :—			
Birth to five years	71 per cent.		
Five to fifteen years	67·9 per cent.		

TUBERCULOSIS.

The increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis which was noted in my last Report has, I am glad to say, apparently been checked during this year, whilst still remaining a lamentable factor in morbidity and mortality in the population, all the more tragic because its heaviest incidence falls on those in the adolescent and young adult age groups.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

TABLE 16.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 years ..	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
15-25 years ..	6	5	0	1	0	1	0	0
25-35 years ..	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	0
35-45 years ..	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
45-55 years ..	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
55-65 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 and upwards	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ..	13	11	4	3	3	6	0	0

Of the nine deaths due to Tuberculosis, all were notified cases.

In conclusion of this section, I should like, once again, to express my thanks to Mr. Wilson, Senior Sanitary Inspector, and to all the staff of the Health Department, for the able and willing help which they have at all times extended to me during the present year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Once again the number of admissions during the current year is up, as compared with 1942, a total of 168 cases being admitted. In my last Report, I expressed the hope that increased numbers of Service cases would be sent in for treatment and this hope has been largely fulfilled, a total of 57 Service cases having been admitted, suffering from a wide range of conditions, the scope of which can be appreciated by a glance at Table 17a.

This increase in the variety of diseases admitted is of inestimable value from the point of view of the training of the Nursing Staff, whose interest, quite naturally, is enormously increased as the result of the wide variety and range of the illnesses nursed.

No structural alterations were, of course, undertaken during the year, but I should like once again to record my view that cubicle accommodation would enlarge very considerably the scope and utility of this Institution and would make possible the simultaneous accommodation of an even wider range of Infectious conditions.

TABLE 17.

**Showing particulars of cases of Admission and Discharge
(Civilian) during 1943.**

Disease	Admissions			Discharges		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Scarlet Fever	32	46	78	38	49	87
Diphtheria	9	12	21*	11	12	25
Pneumonia	2	2	4	2	2	4
Measles	1	0	1	1	0	1
Rubella	0	1	1	0	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	2	1	1	2
Chicken Pox	0	1	1	0	1	1
Observation	0	1	1	0	1	1
Puerperal Fever	0	1	1	0	1	1
Pemphigus	0	1†	1	0	1	1
TOTALS	45	66	111	53	69	124

*Of the above 21 cases of Diphtheria, 10 were proved "Negative."

†This case was admitted from outside the Rothwell Urban Area.

TABLE 17a.

Showing Particulars of Admission and Discharge of Members of
H.M. Forces, during 1943.

Disease	Admissions			Discharges		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	1	2
Vincent's Angina	8	5	13	9	5	14
Pneumonia	1	0	1	1	0	1
Rubella	2	0	2	2	0	2
Measles	2	2	4	2	2	4
Influenza	0	2	2	0	2	2
Meningitis	1	0	1	1	0	1
Dysentery	1	0	1	1	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	0	1	1	0	1
Diarrhoea	2	2	4	2	2	4
Glandular Fever	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mumps	1	1	2	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	0	3	3	0	3	3
Observation	0	1	1	0	1	1
Tonsillitis	3	1	4	3	1	4
Streptococcal Throat	4	11	15	3	10	13
TOTALS ..	27	30	57	27	28	55

Mortality Rate.—One death was recorded during the year 1943, due to a malignant Diphtheria in an unimmunised child, and this gives a general Hospital death rate of 0.55 per 100 patients discharged.

Once more I should like to thank the Matron for her loyal co-operation and support during the year and for the readiness with which she has carried out all necessary measures, often with the minimum of notice and in spite of shortages of staff.

To conclude, I should like to thank the Chairman and members of the Council and, in particular the Chairmen and members of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and Isolation Hospital Committees, for the help and support which at all times they have given me.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rothwell, 1944.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, for the year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit, for your information, my Twelfth Annual Report on the work of the Health and Cleansing Departments for the year ended December 31st, 1943.

The Report is, during war time, of necessity meagre, but the details will, I trust, convey to the Council and Committee the main lines on which the work of the Department has been carried out during the period under review.

The Staff has been maintained at the level to which it descended in 1942, namely, myself, my deputy and two clerical staff, which is proving just sufficient to meet with the war time needs in view of certain factors which I will enumerate later.

Again I am able to tell you that the district has suffered no damage from aerial or, indeed, any other form of attack, and although in the midst of a War, we have felt very little of the ordinary war time percussions. There are, of course, shortages and restrictions which we meet in requiring work to be done in the normal administration of Acts and Orders, and in the securing of spares and replacements for the vehicles in the Cleansing Department.

Civil Defence and Associated Works.—The Council, after long consideration of my position as Billeting Officer and my repeated assertions that this was claiming an undue proportion of the Department's time, decided to appoint a Billeting Officer from outside the Council Staff, and my work has been lightened by this reduction, which took place in June of 1943.

Likewise, I was also required by the Council, after some acrimonious discussion, to relinquish the post I had held as A.R.P. Officer and Officer in Charge of Report Centre, as it was felt that the requirements of these might impinge upon the duties imposed on me as Officer in Charge of War Time Mortuaries, and this release

took place in October, so that from that date, with the exception of Mortuaries and Food Decontamination, neither of which have been particularly onerous, the Department was, in the main, released from Civil Defence work.

Housing.—As in recent years, the activities of the Department have had to be confined to the immediate repair work which all houses from time to time require and which some owners do not attend to without persuasion from this Department. The amount of work done under this heading compares very favourably with that of previous years, having regard to the fact that our Staff has suffered a fifty per cent. reduction. During the latter half of the year, however, talk was more rife of post-war reconstruction, post-war housing and the like, and in the course of our peregrinations through the district we have begun to make at least a mental picture of what will be required when hostilities have ceased, and this mental picture will take a more concrete form in another twelve months' time. Sufficient to say, at the moment, that our post-war Slum Clearance Schemes will undoubtedly be large.

The statement below gives details under the formal headings of the work carried out in this branch :—

No. of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Acts ..	198
Total number of inspections made under Public Health and Housing Acts	503
No. of Preliminary Notices served	161
No. of Ashpits converted	8
No. of Dustbins provided in lieu of Ashpits	31
No. of Notices complied with during 1943	158
No. of Legal Notices (Housing) served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	11
No. of the above Notices complied with	11
No. of Legal Notices (Public Health) served	16
No. of above Notices complied with	16

Nuisances.—During the currency of the year, 423 nuisances were found or reported which, with 3 outstanding from the previous year, gave a total of 426, the investigation of which required 451 visits on the part of the staff. The 426 were, however, all abated before the end of 1943, 14 informal and 8 statutory Notices being served to require their completion.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures.—The Police Court action taken in 1942 and referred to in the Annual Report of that year had the salutary effect of keeping the district clear of caravans during 1943 with the exception of those upon the Feast Ground, but in the early part of 1943 an application for a renewal of a Licence to keep caravans at that place was refused, and upon refusal,

the applicants took the matter to Court in the manner provided by the Public Health Act. The Court upheld the decision of the Council, the ground became unlicensed and could only be used in accordance with the terms of the Public Health Act for short periods, or by those persons who were exempt from the Act. In the Autumn of 1943 the ground again filled with Showmen and others and advice was sought as whether such people were, in fact, entitled to the protection provided by the Public Health Act, 1936, in view of the fact that they did not attend shows or feasts during the Winter months. Thus the position stood at the end of the year and further comment will no doubt be included in later Reports. It is, however, right that I should say that no nuisance coming within the purview of the Public Health Acts was reported or noted in connection with any caravan during the course of the year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.—In spite of the difficulties occasioned by shortage of spares and machine parts, referred to in the preamble to this Report, the Department maintained a system of emptying comparable with our pre-war one, of seven days for dustbins and 21 days for ashpits. We have now three Karrier Bantam 3 cube yard Refuse vehicles engaged on normal refuse collection, and a Karrier Bantam Cesspool and Gulley Emptying machine for that particular type of work. The Staff employed is about the usual, but we still have to be content with some aged men to replace others who have left or been drafted to war time employment.

Salvage.—Salvage has continued as required by the various directions of the Ministry of Supply and our returns, though not reaching the heights gained by our more urbanised colleagues, do show that the Department is assiduous in obeying such war-time directions as are placed upon us. The peak period of the year was a Book Salvage Drive which took place in September, when books were collected for the Forces, for replacing blitzed libraries and for salvage. Our target was set at 50,000, a fairly ambitious figure for a district of this size and type, but with the help of much voluntary assistance, and the whole-hearted co-operation of the public, we were able to pass our target by some 6,400 books. The interest and results obtained by the introduction of book recovery into the schools, and the award of military ranks to the scholars to mark their efforts in book recovery, was a very helpful factor, and although I cannot think that militarisation of this type is desirable, it certainly served its purpose.

The salvage of Food Scraps is still maintained and we are able to transport the collected food waste to Leeds and bring back processed pig food to meet the demands of pig keepers in this area, and still maintain a balance slightly on the credit side.

There are placed in various parts of the Council's area some 288 bins for the special reception of kitchen waste, and some trouble and annoyance has been caused to the Department by interference with these receptacles. No doubt some of the interference was malicious, but we had evidence that the food stuff deposited in the bins was being purloined, a fact which not only lowered the district food scrap collection rate, but rightly roused the ire of worthy householders who were using the bins for their authorised purpose. In the early part of 1943, certain juvenile malefactors were apprehended and haled before the Juvenile Court where they were admonished and discharged with a caution. This procedure brought about our ears a weight of criticism and certain daily papers felt impelled to refer to this form of heavy justice in their topical comments. We survived this abuse however, and the action taken had the desired effect of warning would-be larcenists of the consequences of such action.

Perhaps I spoke too soon last year in commenting on the speedy removal of tins and other salvage which we were able to maintain. During 1943 we were not able to obtain an outlet for tins, with the result that an unsightly heap collected at our Central Depot which became at once an object of comment and a refuge for vermin, and this monument was still erected at the end of the year.

The system of paying bonus to the workmen, commenced in 1941, was continued and during the year a total sum of was disbursed amongst the men of the Cleansing Department.

TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT AND VALUE OF MATERIALS SALVAGED.

Material.	Weight.						Income.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.			£	s.	d.
Baled Papers	103	18	1	1	..	711	11	11	
Unbaled Paper		11	0	21	..	5	17	8	
Unbaled Tins	18	17	2	0	..	25	0	2	
Textiles	7	1	1	20	..	99	15	9	
Non-ferrous metals ..		13	0	20	..	17	10	3	
Rubber	4	5	0	0	..	10	12	6	
Food scraps	206	19	0	0	..	307	6	8	
Bones	3	15	1	0	..	17	17	0	
Bottles and Jars ..	2,626	dozen	and	3	..	61	18	10	
Total						£1,257	10	9	

Sanitary Conveniences.—The shortage of supplies has held up the conversion of sanitary conveniences other than water closets and during the year the only conversion was 16 privies to pai

closets, a reform, although in my opinion, not entirely desirable, still an improvement on the privies with their twenty-one days' emptying, as the pails are emptied by the suction Gulley Emptier every week. We were able to continue with the conversion of ashpits to dustbins and 8 ashpits were replaced by 31 dustbins.

Milk and Dairies.—There has been very little alteration from previous years, although we have now slightly more retail milk purveyors on our register, but 3 less cowkeepers. Sampling of milk for Resazurin test was continued during the year, in all 45 samples being taken. The results of these were very gratifying and only in a very few cases were the results such as required further investigation. This bears out statements made previously in my Annual Reports that the milk produced in this district is of good quality and cleanly produced.

No. of persons registered as Retail Purveyors of Milk ..	80
No. of Cowkeepers	30
No. of premises registered as Dairies	38
No. of Accredited Milk Licences	2
No. of Supplementary Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order	6

Meat and Food Inspection and Control.—We are not concerned with the ordinary inspection of meat, as centralised slaughtering has removed this from our care but, during the year, 91 visits were paid to premises where animals were slaughtered privately, for the purpose of inspecting 99 carcasses of pork and one goat. This does not indicate the amount of pigs slaughtered in this district under Licences granted by the Ministry of Food, as the owners of such pigs, having stated that they are for their own consumption, are under no obligation to notify this Department and apparently prefer to rely on their own judgment as to whether the pig is sound, rather than run the risk of having all or part of it condemned by an Officer from this Department. Post-war, I hope to see the entire elimination of all such private slaughtering, as it lends itself to misuse and abuse and, after all, even if the householder is prepared to rely on his own judgment, it seems extremely unfair that his innocent dependents should be compelled to eat such uninspected meat.

Our attention was engaged, however, in inspecting foods of various types in shops and stores, with the result that, during the year, a total weight of 1,665 lbs. of foods of various descriptions was condemned and removed to a place of safety, being destroyed entirely, or included in some form of salvage.

The details are as follows :—

Pork and bacon	196 lbs.
Fish	98 lbs.
Cereals	504 lbs.
Tinned and pre-packed foods ..	867 lbs.
	<hr/>
	1,665
	<hr/>

In addition, $4\frac{1}{2}$ dozen eggs were found to be unfit for human consumption.

The voluntary Food Decontamination Squad under my control, has been maintained during 1943, lectures and various types of training having been arranged, Their services were not, however, required during the year, a factor which, I think caused no one any regret.

Water Sampling.—The water supply of this district, which is almost entirely drawn from water undertakings maintained by larger Authorities in the vicinity, has been carefully subjected to chemical and bacteriological analysis during the year. Although this was a war-time measure instituted to safeguard against possible interference by enemy action or agents, it has provided a useful check on the type of water delivered into this district. 14 chemical and 15 bacteriological samples were taken, all the chemical being satisfactory, but three bacteriological were not so, and this gave opportunity to enquire into the causal factors, none of which proved to be in any way serious.

Petroleum.—During 1943, 38 Licences were issued to store 2,099,164 gallons of petroleum spirit in this area, the stores concerned all being maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.—This work is still maintained and here we are fortunate in not ever being short of materials for this very necessary work. The table appended gives the details and types of the work carried out during the year.

22 Disinfections of Houses after removal of cases of infectious disease.

1 Disinfection of empty house.

7 Disinfections of Houses after death of one of the inmates.

23 Disinfestations of Houses for vermin.

—
53 Total.

==

Rats.—A new heading in my Annual Reports, and brought about by the interest the Ministry of Food have evinced in such a

subject and the responsibility delegated to Local Authorities to eliminate these pests in order to safeguard the Nation's food supply. In the latter part of 1943, Mr. Naylor and myself attended a course on the Modern Forms of Rat Destruction, after which we were supposed, amidst our many other duties, to devote some time to Rat Destruction in this area. The new methods of baiting and poisoning have proved effective and although there was not much time in the rest of 1943 to put these methods into practise, we can with safety claim that there are less rats in Rothwell as the result of our activities than there were before. I am not quoting the total bag, as ascertained by the Ministry of Food from bait and poison which has disappeared, as I think this is inclined to paint a more rosy picture than is merited.

In bringing to conclusion this, my Twelfth Annual Report, I would place on record my appreciation of the help and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and of the loyalty, assistance and co-operation of the Staff, which, together with the support of the Health Committee and the Council, is so necessary in maintaining the efficiency of the Department.

I am, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. WILSON.

Rothwell, 1944.



